

AFFIDAVIT OF FRANCISCO ORTIZ

I, FRANCISCO ORTIZ, being duly sworn upon oath, do depose and declare that the following statements are true to the best of my knowledge.

Background

1. My name is Francisco Ortiz and I am the Chief of Police for the City of New Haven. I have held this position since April 2003.
2. I have been a member of the New Haven Police Department for over 25 years. Previously, I served as Assistant Chief for three months and as Captain of Patrol for five years. I also served as the Community Patrol Operations Resource Coordinator.
3. As the Chief of Police, I am ultimately responsible for the public safety of all residents of the City and for all policing activity in New Haven.
4. I have spoken out publicly in support of the municipal ID program in my capacity as Chief of Police. I was quoted in the local press starting in the fall of 2005, when Mayor John DeStefano, Jr. first endorsed the program, and then again in the spring and summer of 2007 as the program was implemented. I have supported the program because undocumented residents of New Haven have been and continue to be vulnerable to crime. The municipal ID program supports our community policing model and is a useful public safety tool. If the names, addresses and other personal information of applicants were to be made public, however, I believe there would be a risk of harm to those persons, especially our more vulnerable residents, including undocumented and/or elderly persons and children.

Public Safety Objectives of the Municipal ID Program

5. I have supported the municipal ID program because of my desire to increase the public safety of all of New Haven's residents, including its many immigrant members.
6. One way that the municipal ID program works to improve public safety is by providing the police with a registry of city residents, including those who do not have listed phone numbers or property listings.
7. A registry of all city residents makes it easier for the Police Department to find people we are looking for, or to respond to a missing person report.
8. In addition, from my years of living and working in all neighborhoods in New Haven; my countless conversations with residents, community leaders, officials

and officers in the Police Department, I am well aware that immigrants, especially undocumented immigrants, are particularly vulnerable to crime.

9. This vulnerability stems from the fact that many undocumented immigrants cannot open bank accounts and are forced to carry around large quantities of cash. For example, in October 2006, Manuel Santiago, an undocumented immigrant without a bank account, was stabbed to death during an attempted robbery after he cashed a check in New Haven.
10. I have also supported the municipal ID program because of my concern about the underreporting of crimes within New Haven's immigrant communities.
11. Crimes that are particularly underreported among immigrant communities include domestic violence, sexual assault, and gang activities.
12. The problem of underreporting is compounded when immigrants are undocumented: without a legitimate form of ID, many residents do not feel safe reporting crimes to police. This undermines the ability of New Haven police officers to effectively solve crimes where immigrants are the victims, and threatens public safety generally.
13. I believe that a standard form of identification like the municipal ID card will increase trust between New Haven's undocumented communities and the police. The card will encourage individuals both to report crimes when they occur and to cooperate in the department's ongoing investigations.
14. However, in order to maintain this trust, and to allow the municipal ID program to succeed in its objective of increasing public safety, it is critical that the names, addresses, and photographs of ID card applicants not be disclosed.

The Public Safety Effect of Releasing Applicant Information

15. Ever since the Board of Alderman approved the municipal ID act in June 2007, New Haven has become the target of both local and national anti-immigrant groups.
16. During the summer of 2007, several city employees involved with the passage of the municipal ID act received a series of hostile emails and phone calls, including at least one email which my department has characterized as a death threat.
17. Detective Rafael Segarra was assigned to investigate this death threat, which he subsequently reported to the FBI. I have on several occasions assigned Detective Segarra the task of investigating and preparing reports to the FBI based on threats and harassment directed against the Community Services Administrator.

18. In the months leading up to the Board of Aldermen vote on the municipal ID act, anti-immigrant activists frequented city hall and held loud protests outside. The level of rhetoric directed against City Hall became increasingly hostile over time, so I increased the level of security. Law enforcement officers were present on the day of the public hearing (May 17th), the day of the vote of the Board of Aldermen (June 4) and the day the program was launched (July 24). During the latter two events, officers were forced to separate pro and anti-immigrant activists because of the escalating levels of hostility between the two groups.
19. It is my opinion that disclosure of the names, addresses, and photographs of municipal ID applicants would put them at risk for harm, from both the individuals who have previously made threats against city personnel and applicants as well as from other anti-immigrant extremists. Release of these records may also pose public safety risks to other vulnerable populations, including children and the elderly.

Francisco Ortiz

Sworn and subscribed to me on this __ day of January, 2008.